GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1062
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2007
DEVELOPMENT OF WASTELANDS
Maheshwari Smt. Kiran

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of barren land, dry land/wet land in the country, State-wise;

(b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to make these wastelands fertile;

(c) whether the Government proposes to distribute these lands to the tribals or poor landless people in order to provide them livelihood; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU)

(a) According to the Wastelands Atlas of India-2005, brought out by Ministry of Rural Development in collaboration with National Remote Sensing Agency, the total wasteland available in the country is 55.27 million hectare, which includes waterlogged, saline, sandy, barren, rocky, etc. land. A statement showing State-wise area of wasteland is at the Annexure-I.

(b) Department of Land Resources in the Ministry of Rural Development is implementing three area development programmes i.e. Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP), Desert Development Programme (DDP) and Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP) on watershed basis for wasteland development, drought proofing and desertification control by rejuvenating the natural resource base.

(c) and (d) − Distribution of Government wastelands has been one of the strategies of land reforms. It has been the accepted policy that the wasteland at the disposal of the Government should be distributed amongst the eligible rural poor. The State Governments are requested from time to time to distribute the wasteland amongst the eligible rural poor. A statement showing State-wise distribution of wasteland is at Annexure-II.